

CLAIMS

1. A restraining device for preventing undesired motion of a shopping cart of the type having a frame with a plurality of wheels attached thereto for rolling over a substantially planar, horizontal surface, comprising:
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- a bracket for fixed attachment to the frame;
 - an elongate arm having a first end and a second end, attached with respect to the bracket;
 - a non-slippery engagement surface attached with respect to the first end,
 - 10 configured and arranged for engagement with the horizontal surface; and
 - a pivot located between the bracket and the elongate arm.
2. The restraining device of claim 1 further comprising a locking element.
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3. The restraining device of claim 2 further comprising a restoring device dispensed between the elongate arm and the frame.
4. The restraining device of claim 3 wherein the non-slippery engagement surface is a plate-like friction pad.
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5. The restraining device of claim 4 further comprising a rotation mechanism between the first end and the pad to allow for rotation of the pad with respect to the arm.
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6. The restraining device of claim 3 wherein the elongate arm is non-linear.
7. The restraining device of claim 3 wherein the cart has two forward wheels, attached to the frame at wheel-attachment points, and the frame has a forward portion dispensed between the wheel-attachment points, and wherein the pivot is configured and arranged to permit retraction of the arm in a plane perpendicular to the forward portion.
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8. The restraining device of claim 3 further comprising an arm-length adjusting device located between the first and second ends whereby a length of the arm may be adjusted.

5 9. A shopping-cart restraining device for restraining shopping carts of the type having a substantially horizontal frame with a plurality of wheels attached thereto for motion over a planar surface, comprising:

- an elongate member pivotably engaged with respect to the shopping cart, having a distal end and a proximal end;
- 10 - a non-slippery engagement surface pivotably attached with respect to the distal end, for engagement with the horizontal surface; and
- a locking mechanism to disengagingly lock the arm with respect to the cart in a position whereby the engagement surface is maintained in contact with the horizontal surface.

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10. A method for selectively prohibiting the motion of a shopping cart of the type having a plurality of wheels for movement over a planar surface, attached to a frame, comprising the steps of:

- affixing to the cart a restraining device of the type having:
 - 20 - a bracket for fixed attachment to a frame;
 - an elongate member having a first end and a second end, pivotably attached with respect to the bracket; and
 - a non-slippery engagement surface attached with respect to the first end, configured and arranged for engagement with the horizontal surface;
- 25 and
- deploying the arm whereby the engagement surface is in engagement with the planar surface.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the restraining device has a locking
30 mechanism to releaseably hold the elongate member in a stationary position.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the locking mechanism is engaged through the application of foot pressure.

5 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the locking mechanism is released by the addition of energy.

10 14. The locking mechanism of claim 13 wherein the cart has two forward wheels, attached to the frame at wheel-attachment points, and the frame has a forward portion dispensed between the wheel-attachment points and parallel to the surface, and wherein the pivot is configured and arrangement to permit retraction of the elongate member in a planar manner, perpendicular to the forward portion, and comprising the additional step of:

15 - applying hand force to a basket attached with respect to the frame, in a direction parallel to the forward portion in an amount sufficient to release the locking mechanism.

20 15. The method of claim 13 comprising the additional step of: applying force by the foot of a user with respect to the elongate member, in an amount sufficient to release the locking mechanism.